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E.MAIL ADDRESS : SOUTHAMPTON@SUFOG.FREESERVE.CO.UK

European FT
Initiative.

Calling all UFO Research Groups in both the UNited Kingdom & on the European Mainland. An attempt to track the black triangular-shaped UFO across Europe during the years 1993 - 1997 is underway. Based upon Project FT's database which contains some 7,000 sighting reports, additional FT reports are required which will be added to the database and which may possibly reveal just where the FT has its entrance/exit windows.. (Cont Page 2)....

CHECK US OUT AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE :
<http://home1.swipnet.se/~w-18128>

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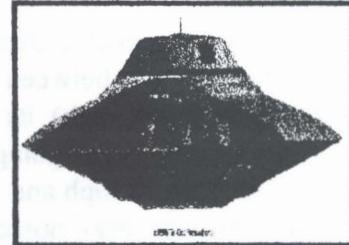
This edition of the newsletter carries one or two sad items as well as a number of exciting and interesting articles. We have part 1 of our

relating to the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. There are certainly one or two surprises in there... What I will do in the next edition, is to list all the file references, so that if you are on the net, you can access the CIA site, and call the files up and print them off yourself.

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skywatch at Avebury, Matthew Williams reply to Paul Vigay, the Flying Triangle initiative, mystery rings in Canada and the usual reviews by Ernie Sears regarding the press and exchange magazines (of which there are a number this time round). So sit back and enjoy the following pages brought to you by the dedicated few for the undedicated many...

Whilst surfing the Internet recently, I visited the CIA site in America and boy, was I in for a surprise.. You can access over 50, yes 50 CIA reports



or two).. This is for those of you who want to save the Southampton UFO Group from folding in the year 2000, to give me ideas what you want from the group and how we can improve it. Also, There are application forms for you if you wish to buy conference tickets.. At present, I have sold only 12 tickets (£120) for the conference and at this rate, I will be cancelling the conference, because, we have to sell 100 tickets (£1000) before the 1st of October, otherwise I will call the whole event off and it will go down as yet another SUFOG failure... So, the ball is in your court as to if you want SUFOG to continue and you want conference '99 to go ahead.

European / Scandinavia FT Initiative Interim Report (June 1st 1999)

Project FT has compared Flying Triangle sightings from the European Mainland and Scandinavia with FT sightings over the United Kingdom which occurred during the same 'work period' (Sunset to following Sunrise) between 1993 and 1997.

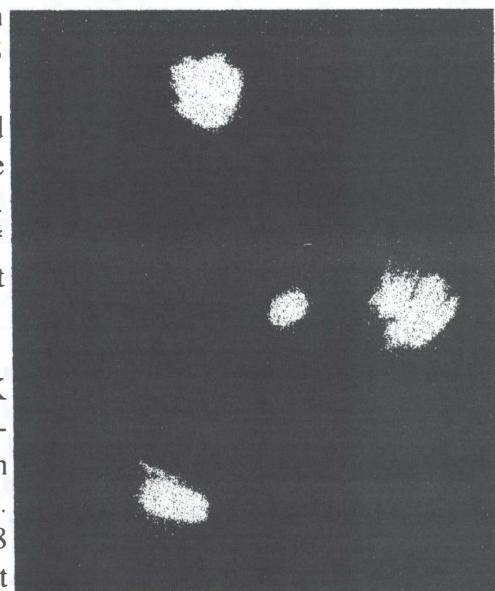
Of the 93 FT reports received from the European / Scandinavian area we have 62 instances (67%) where a FT report was followed (or was preceded by) a similar report from the UK within three hours. In 35 cases both FT reports were within 60 minutes of each other. (Of these, ten were 30 mins and a further six within 15 mins.)

Having noted the distance between each sighting location and the reported time of the sighting we calculated the speed of the FT assuming that the same craft was involved in both reports. We accept that one cannot be certain that the same craft *was* involved in each sighting, though our database indicates that there are few FTs operating at any one time.

1. It was noticeable that, whereas the FT when over the UK normally travels between the UK Nuclear Power stations at 20 - 60 mph (32 - 96 kph), its speeds are generally much higher when coming in from (or going to) Mainland Europe or Scandinavia. i.e. between 32 mph and 1252 mph. The average speed was 428 mph. It was also noted that the calculated speeds are not random, but tend to 'cluster' around set speeds.

Example : In ten cases, the speeds were calculated at 123 mph +/- 17 mph. (+- 14%)

2. There were four 'pairings' where the calculated speed, based upon apparent distance covered, would seem to indicate that two separate FTs were operating at the same time. Although it is possible that the FT 'jumped' some 450 miles (742 km) in five minutes and then 'jumped' back again to its original location we discarded these four cases where the FT would have had to have travelled in excess of 1,500 mph.
3. Of the remaining 58 cases, the FT was in UK airspace before travelling to Mainland Europe on 23 occasions (40%) and in UK airspace *after* being seen over Mainland Europe on 35 occasions (60%).
4. In 26 cases the FT visited a UK Nuclear Power Station (45 %)
5. Of the 26 instances where the FT visited a UK Nuclear Power Station, it was at Bradwell NPS, Essex on fourteen occasions (54 %). On nine occasions (35 %) it was at Sizewell NPS, Suffolk and on three occasions (11 %) it was reported at Dungeness NPS, Kent.
6. Of the fourteen Bradwell cases, three cases (21 %) are noted when the FT visited Bradwell NPS before heading to the Continent. Of the remaining eleven cases (79 %) the Bradwell NPS was visited *after* being reported over Mainland Europe.
7. Of the nine Sizewell NPS cases, only one case (11 %) was noted when the FT visited Sizewell before heading to Mainland Europe. Of the remaining eight cases (89 %) the Sizewell NPS was visited *after* Mainland Europe.



8. Of the Dungeness NPS cases, the FT visited the NPS before heading to Mainland Europe on all three occasions.

9. Of the 26 instances where the FT visited a UK NPS, seven cases (27 %) were noted when the FT visited a UK NPS before heading to the Continent. On the remaining nineteen cases (73 %) the UK NPS was visited *after* visiting Mainland Europe.

This last statistic (9) is significantly at variance to the overall distribution (3)

A graph of distance / speed appears to show some correlation though more data is required before any definitive conclusions can be reached.

We take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed FT data to this initiative and remind all those who have yet to do so that their data is essential for a better understanding of this phenomenon.

Victor J. Kean.
Project FT.

The 'Project FT' web-site can be reached through :

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nevadafighter>

OBITUARY : RICHARD ANDREWS...

It is with sadness that Richard Andrews passed away on Friday the 7th August 1999. Although I had only met Mr. Andrews on a couple of occasions, he was from the 'old' school of Cereologists and was one of the original group of researchers including Colin Andrews and Busty Taylor and was investigating the phenomenon when such people as Doug and Dave were on the scene. Mr. Andrews was known more as a dowser and would be found in many a formation dowsing crop circles around Hampshire and Wiltshire. Mr. Andrews lived in Winchester and gave many a lecture, including lectures at Andover organised by Busty Taylor. His loss will be a great one to world of Cereology and a person, that although not known to many people, has left his own kind of mark behind within the world of Cereology and the crop circle phenomenon.

Steve Gerrard.

IMPROMPTU SKYWATCH 11.8.99

There is nothing like doing things on the spur of the moment, so our intrepid duo, Steve Gerrard (work horse of the group) and his side kick, group member Andy Phillips set off into the gloom of the night towards Cheesefoot Head. One wondered, after the solar eclipse, were the elusive UFO's around as they had appeared after the Mexico eclipse of 1991 - The OVNI's.. Well, there was only one way to find out... get off our backsides and go and do a skywatch..

We arrived at around 9 p.m. to an empty car park, parked up, opened the car windows and looked into the gloom of the grey, overcast night. Well, we saw 1 airplane and heard 3 somewhere in the clouds. We saw a couple of strange lights in the distance, but assumed that they were cars on the distant hills with their headlights on full beam. At around 1 a.m. there were one or two stars playing peepo through the clouds. At around 1.30 a.m. we headed back after a rather disappointing skywatch. Better luck next time as they say...

COINCIDENCE OR NOT... THAT IS THE QUESTION...

Many people believe in coincidences, such as group member Ernie Sears, and I must admit, the more I hear about such things, the more I think that possibly there is. Take this Saturday just gone, the 10th July.. Myself, and group members Bill Smith and Andy Phillips headed off to Cheesefoot Head for our close encounter. What follows is the log of what we saw, but first.... When we arrived, we went armed with binoculars checking the local fields for Crop Circle formations. We walked up the road, and scouring the distant fields, Bill said 'look over there'.. in a distant field we saw what looked like a marking in the centre of a 'virgin' field of green. We walked along a public right of way for some 2 miles (It felt like 4 !!!) and we could see what looked like 2 circles with a central path (dumbbell) and another path coming off of one of the circles. Suddenly we lost sight of it behind trees. So, Bill and Andy fought through barbed wire (I got stuck and did not follow !!!), brambles and trees, but were unable to locate the alleged formation (The time now was around 21.55 hrs and the light was fading fast...). So we returned to the Cheesefoot Head car park rather disappointed. I reported what we saw to Paul Vigay and I received an e.mail from him saying that Lucy Pringle and Colin Andrews could not locate any formations in the Cheesefoot Head area. (Were they looking in the right direction I ask myself ??).

Sky Log for the 10th July 1999..

21.47 - 48 : Bright flaring orange light, dimmed & brightened 2 times in the South West sky (We felt at the time that this was in fact a balloon, but we were unable to sight any other part of it).

21.33 : Fireworks display in the South West.

23.22 : A fantastically bright Shooting Star (one of a number seen during the night).

23.51 : A satellite.

00.32 : Fireworks in the Western Sky.

Coincidence : Since the sky watch, on the same night, I have received an e.mail of a UFO report over Gosport, Portsmouth at 23.55 hrs in the WNW sky. Fuzzy pink spherical light, horizontal travel, and manoeuvred towards the end of its flight path in a snake-like meander.

From our sky watch advantage point we would have sky coverage of the North, North East, and North West and the South West, therefore we should of seen the same object at around the same time. but as our log shows, we only saw a satellite at around 23.51 hrs. I suppose the answer is, we were looking at the wrong part of the sky when the 4 witnesses had their sighting of the object. I don't know, but I truly wish we had seen the same object as reported at 23.55 hrs over Gosport so that the object could of been verified from another vantage point.

We finished the sky watch around 02.30 am as the wind got up and I was getting rather cold, although the sky was so clear and perfect, I wish we could of stayed the night. Also the car park was getting busy with cars with extinguished lights and bouncing around (Now I wonder what they were up to ?... sky watching from inside their cars... !!). Another somewhat unsuccessful sky watch in that we saw nothing spectacular and the hunt for that elusive (what we thought was) crop circle did not bear fruits. But we did a sky watch and the three dedicated people spent the evening doing what all members should be doing... Watching The Skies...

Steve Gerrard (Editor, Group Founder and General (dogs body ?) all round good egg...).

SUFOG CONTACT CORNER....

Cornwall UFO Research Group :
01872 76381

West Wales Paranormal Group :
01545 560164

London UFO Studies :
0181 270 9919

UFO Monitors East Kent :
01303 254774

Plymouth Research Group :
01752 565255

British UFO Studies Centre :
01606 552175

British Flying Saucer Bureau :
01454 778649

UFO Investigations Northern Ireland :
01247 275179

Scottish UFO Research Organization :
01224 879979

Phenomenon Research Association :
01332 761464

Skysearch UFO Research Organization :
01273 300805

Jersey UFO Research : 0979 716839
24hr Hotline : 01534 819543

Malcolm Robinson(SPI England) :
0181 998 4936
Pager : 04325 345 753

UPRI (IRELAND)
PO BOX 7041
HARMONSTOWN
DUBLIN 5

Southampton UFO Group

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TOTTEN,
SOUTHAMPTON,
SO40 3BF***

e.mail: truth@totton.ac.uk

Matthew Williams replies to Paul Vigays recent report on the Country File Dealing with Crop Circles.
(Re-printed with Paul Vigays consent).

My name is Matthew Williams and I am referred to in Paul Vigays (Enigma magazine) recent report on the Country File program dealing with Crop Circles.

I just want to state that whilst Pauls article is the most accurate on this particular program I have seen there are subtle problems which I need to explain which will help the reader understand why parts of the program appeared the way they did.

Firstly before I go on to the details of the program let me say that over the years I have been involved with TV programs and documentaries on both sides of the camera, I know how the TV game works and the ways that the program makers often make assumptions and cut corners in order to give the "feel" they want a piece to work. I often found program makers encouraging people to say things "their way" and also to stage situations which are obviously unnatural to the witness. This ends up making a slick piece of TV but does not represent the true facts of a situation. In essence - coming from somebody who knows - don't trust anything you read in newspapers or see on TV. It is often lies or gross exaggeration !!!

In the case of the Country File show, it appears that the makers had wanted a particular slant on what crop circles were about and had done a "pre-treatment" which gave an outline of who they would like to see in the show and the types of things they expected people to say.

Having picked the people and contacted them, filming commenced and suitable comments and statements were picked and earmarked for the edit. These comments may not be a true reflection of the whole conversations which really took place because after all the segment was only about 20 minutes or so. This defines the word "Edit". Participants rarely have any choice over how they are edited into a program and often sign "release forms" to allow their interviews to be used in programs. These release forms are a moral disclaimer which basically means that the program makers are allowed to make a person say or appear to do anything they want in their editing and re-jigging.. and that you have no right to redress. In fact, these release forms hold no real legal basis because someone can still complain that the material was defamatory or lied in some way and seek redress through courts or TV ombudsman, but this rarely ever happens.

THE IMPORTANT BIT...

Now I will give you a small example of how the feature misrepresented the events of the night in relation to us finding "The Circlemakers" at work in the field below Milk Hill, opposite Stanton St Bernard.

After Doug and Dave and TV crew had driven off from the interview conducted on East Kennett Hill, at high speed - helped by a police road block, to prevent researchers from following them.. myself and researcher Paul Damon went on a scan of the countryside to see if we could spot the group. Armed with nightvision binoculars and my 1.5 million candlewatt search-lamp we scoured the area surrounding Silbury Hill and Avebury and then moved on to Alton Barnes. We knew that other researchers were out looking for the TV cars in other areas. We were just the lucky ones who found them... and it wasn't how the TV show represented it happened ! Also it was the very first time this team of circlemakers (the most prolific team ever to hit the fields of Wiltshire!) were caught at night, making circles.

We were driving near Stanton St. Bernard and saw a car full of people known to me as circlemakers - but as it turns out this group were not the team who were helping the BBC. I stopped and asked the group why they were there and were they helping the BBC with making a circle. They stated that they knew nothing about the BBC being in the area and were just parked up having a chat. I found this suspicious and was just about to question them further when the BBC TV car turned up and drove down the small lane where we were and drove past us. When they realised that we as researchers had spotted them they sped off, performed a series of high speed turns and tore off at 70 mph plus, along the country lanes. We tried to follow, but the BBC had a faster car and got away.

We returned to the circlemakers and asked the why the BBC would just happen to come near them when they were parked up. They said they did not know and eventually when we stopped talking, they drove off, and we followed their car out of the area. Thinking that the BBC coming to the Stanton St Bernard parking was too much to chance and that they may be meeting the circlemakers later on, we returned to the same spot and waited. Lo-and-behold the BBC drove past again. So were they trying to meet these circlemakers ? Apparently not...

We gave pursuit to the BBC and due to their Volvo 440 Turbo versus our Nissan Micra 1 litre, we didn't get very far against their now 80+ mph chase speed ! So we had lost them a second time. Still, we knew that car parking spot was significant in some way, so we decided to scan all the fields in that area. About 20 minutes later at nearly the same spot where the cars were parked we observed a white Volvo 400 parked in a field below Milk Hill. We observed this via our lamp and not the nightvision camera, though the nightvision camera was used to spot the occupants of the Volvo near the car about to head into the field.

We drove up the path towards the Volvo and observed other cars parked nearby and were greeted by a rather angry circlemaker known as John Lundberg...

John thought that our sole purpose in following the BBC and approaching them now was to stop them making their circle, with the BBC. However once I had explained to John that we were not out to spoil their circle making activities - simply to show that they could be caught in the act, and that I was happy to watch the circle being made things calmed down and we were allowed to observe the making of the formation. The BBC had paid the farmer for the use of the field and because everything was above board we had no right to interfere.

To note, this team of circlemakers were a different set of people to the group we had seen in the other car and when we explained that we had seen another group nearby this group denied having known they were in the area. To be honest I see no reason for the team we were with or the BBC to lie about this as the game was up, so to speak, there was no point in any more secrecy.

During the night the BBC stopped the circlemaker team and Doug to conduct interviews. The BBC were using nightvision equipment and this allowed all activities to take place in complete darkness so was for the very first time a fair way to see that the circlemakers claims of being able to create complex and large circles in the dark are indeed true.

However the problems started in that because of the chasing around in cars had delayed the start of the circle making. The constant interruptions from the BBC and indeed us to talk to the circlemakers as they worked meant that progress on the circles was running behind. The circlemaker team did finish their circle before sun-up but it appeared that Doug and Rupert Segar had been very slow and needed help finishing off.

This goes against Paul Vigay's point that Doug seemed hardly capable of making a large circle... indeed he could have if not interrupted. Doug was fitter than Rupert Segar, the interviewer, who was much younger !

The interviewers with Rupert, which came later on were slightly staged in order to get a different impression about the way the circles were being created - one of linear creation without interruption from the BBC... however this was not the case - there were indeed lots of interruptions. In fairness to the circlemakers, they had started earlier in the night and worked without distractions they could have created a circle probably in excess of three times the size of the pattern they finally created.

By morning light we could see the finished work and we were thoroughly impressed by their formations and those of Doug Bower.. though we know that the TV piece has a flavour which does not ring quite true to the events as they happened. But that is TV.. it is not for the insiders.. it is for millions of viewers who are not so well informed.. and what viewers want to see and more importantly what program producers want them to see is vastly different.

Thanks for Paul Vigay for putting forward this piece. I thought I would expand on this to help people understand that TV is not the best medium for learning the truth and Paul Vigay's idea that you have to immerse yourself in the flesh to learn about this and any other subject is a valid one. M.Williams.

Obituary Notice.
Graham Fabian Noel Knewstub.

Graham Knewstub - a pioneering British UFOlogist - passed away at his home in Bristol on Sunday 16 May, aged 90. He was born on 30 December 1908. Graham's early interest in space travel was confirmed by membership of the British Interplanetary Society (fd. 1933) prior to 1940. While membership of the BIS is now respectable, Graham as a pre-war member, when the BIS was based in Liverpool, would have been regarded as an eccentric or worse. The BIS was reformed in London in 1945 and Graham was elected a Fellow on 3 April 1954. During WW2 he was a radio instructor in the REME.

He was a chartered Engineer and a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. He joined the Bristol Aeroplane Company in 1952, which became BAC, the British Aircraft Corporation. On retirement in 1971, he was head of its Instrumentation Laboratory. He was a highly qualified electronics research engineer, and he mentioned working on electro-gravitics, although in recent years he said that this never came to anything.

He was amongst the founding members in 1952 of the British Branch (initiated by Denis P. Plunkett) of Albert Bender's International Flying Saucer Bureau of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Bender mysteriously terminated the IFSB because of "the Three Men in Black." Graham said that at the time, the BFSB took the threat quite seriously after they received a letter from Australia saying that a MIB was coming to London! But added "What has come to light since suggests that Bender's experiences were personal rather than applicable to UFOs.." The British Branch was made of sterner stuff and it became the British Flying Saucer Bureau, in Bristol in 1953, Graham being elected Chairman. Denis says, "He believed when many did not. His most important contribution to the BFSB apart from his liaison skills and secretarial work, was his 22-page work published in 1955 : "**TECHNICAL REPORT No. 1 : PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF DATA CONCERNING FLYING SAUCERS.**" It was of course produced before the age of word processors and is an exceptional historical document. The BFSB is possibly the oldest lived UFO group in the world and in the 1950s had over 1,000 members. (see footnote.)

Graham was president of the London UFO Research Organisation in 1960 and became the founding president of the British UFO Association in 1962. He helped arrange and speak at conferences run by the BFSB in Bristol in July 1968 and at Shirehampton in 1970.

Cont. on page : 13

SUFOG DIARY - 1999..

**4th September - Skywatch.
(Portsmouth Hill Car Park op. Fort Nelson)**

5th - Group Meeting (AGM).

**9th Oct - Skywatch.
(Cheesefoot Head car park)
24th - 1 Day Mini Conference.**

**13th Nov - Skywatch.
(New Forest)**

**18th Dec - Skywatch.
(Portsmouth Hill car park op.
Fort Nelson)**

**19th - Christmas Pub Meeting and
social evening hopefully with a
small buffet.**

**Please contact the Editor before the
above dates to confirm that the Sky
Watch / Meeting are still going
ahead. This is because Sky Watch's
are likely to be cancelled / changed
due to weather conditions, and
other commitments that the editor
is not aware of at the time of
publication of the newsletter..**

Open Mind 1999-2000 Itinerary.

**17th Sept : An Experience of the
healing potential of sound.**

**15th Oct : The crop circle mystery
1999.**

19th Nov : A new age of miracle.

**18th Feb : Does god play dice with
the universe.**

**For more details contact :
Open Mind Secretary, Keith
Parker.. Tel : 01243 865607.
Rowland Rank Centre, Aldwick
Road, Bognor Regis from 7.30 p.m.
£3.00 at the door.**



**YE OLDE NEWSPAPER
REVIEWS BY ERNIE
SEARS ESQ.**

Few and far between as they say.. however, with the advent of the 30th moon landing anniversary the media, in it's own blinkered way, went to town, so.....

DAILY TELEGRAPH weekend insert had two full pages on June 19th headlined as "The essential guide to the silly season", with a front page festooned by all the paranormal and such stuff that gets the laughs periodically. UFO's of course, prominent, sort of Adamski style, Loch Ness Monster, kangaroos and wallabies, man eating turtles, crop circles, beasts of Bodmin etc, giant Euro wasps, and so on. Inside the two pager.. Steve and I had a good chortle over this.. were hints and tips and advice as to how to locate all this. e.g. UFO's , in Wiltshire What to wear : a big anorak, nerdy as you like. What to bring : binoculars and a not especially good camera. What to say : it's clearly a weather balloon. But the real mystery is we still use them. Well, you get the picture ? .. as for crop circles, what to wear : shorts. What to bring : stout plank and length of rope. What to say : We now have evidence of advanced civilisations trying to communicate with us. What not to say : Look, you missed a bit ! There's much much more but space eludes me.

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH WEEKEND 18th July again had a

two pager on the UNIVERSE, where mankind COULD go.. how many planets "out there" could host life.. 'not as we know it, Jim'.. what we would do when we got there.. the whole first page featured our very own Astronomer Royal with a background of billions of stars.. and in all the verbiage this man spouts out not one little mention of the fact that wherever they hail from, "they" are already here. Astronomers I know of don't get involved with UFO's.. a short conversation and subsequent postcard from Patrick Moore some years ago said 'flying saucers are rot' ! Those that do get involved keep quiet for fear of ridicule Jacques Vallee was one such person who watched astronomical film of a UFO destroyed by his superiors.

PSYCHIC NEWS of July 17th carried a full half page on alien Abductions and Sleep Paralysis by David Melbourne and Dr.Keith Hearne.. the usual plentiful explanations, the media's supply of X-Files, UFO's, abductions, occult, etc, and if you wake up and find yourself paralysed your mind says "abduction".. the moment the thought crosses your mind you are likely to dream it. That puzzles me... if you have awoke to find yourself paralysed how can you then dream it ? Fortunately the writers redeem themselves by admitting that this doesn't explain people who are driving vehicles only to find chunks of time missing later. However, they go on to claim that sleep paralysis could account for those walking alone who claim to have been abducted. Which again demonstrates, I think, (DON'T YOU ?) that the pair haven't read up the UFO material that this is faulty guesswork !

SOUTHAMPTON EVENING ECHO did a piece by invitation on yours truly which it would churlish of me to dwell on.. maybe Steve will cover it.. but I have to say, not unusually, the article.. that's me on the left and ET on the right !, - had a few changes made. I certainly didn't say Tony Blair was 'paranoid'.. obsessed maybe with sneaking away from freedoms including the "right to know" which was really the main thrust of my article after the Echo Editor had gone to town on the same subject. Odd though, although I'd better not say the paranormal does such things, (IT DOES !) that the article was in the Echo issue dated Saturday 26th June and the article was dated at the top of the page as Wednesday 16th June. I wrote to ask if they had had any electrical problems but no answer came back !

That's it for now. Short but hopefully of interest !



MAGAZINE REVIEWS
BY ERNIE SEARS.

A "Bumper" collection indeed this issue, even if an accumulation is the explanation ! Seventeen is the total.. thanks Steve ! Once again the mind boggles after perusing them all... and just when we were thinking it had all gone away.

UFO MAGAZINE.. The Birdsall's world's best selling UFO publication it says and probably no idle boast. The May / June also claims 'now 80 pages'.. the truth is surely out there ! More on MOD man Nick Pope's questionable abduction denied.. but then he would, wouldn't he ? No doubt even more muzzled now with that Freedom of Information Act and non-starter under Blair's shaky grip ! The huge UFO that hovered over 30,000 people at Karachi in 1955. Extra-ordinary UFO encounter at US missile site in South Pacific in the fifties when missile launch was 'frozen'. 1988 "battle" with Finnish jet fighter and five UFO's ! New assessment of MJ12 documents. The BIG BREAKFAST show muzzled on UFO item ? That 1959 Papua encounter.. I actually visited the reverend involved near Winchester later ! Isle Of Wight host to UFO's 1950 to 19797. New 2 hour documentary based on Strieber's "confirmation" aired in the USA. Soviet UFO Secrets. Phew !

UFO MAGAZINE July / Aug issue.. and another that lives up to it's standards... although not sure if that "whale Meat Again" (OUCH) article meets with universal approval !.. Whitley Strieber comes up with a series of suggestions as to where we stand

culture wise and what to do about it.. a new National Security Act (USA) is called for (?) and official secrecy culled along with a PET scan system focussing on abductions. Will he tell Tony Blair ? Please ! That so-called "alien" skull dissected.. Nick Redfern on Rudloe Manor again.. those Phoenix lights.. etc etc etc.. the magazine subs are £3.50 bi-monthly from Quest Publications International Ltd, Lloyds Bank Chambers, West Street, Ilkley, LS29 9DW.

UFO MAGAZINE (Canada) APRIL issue sports a colourful cover and features, inside, Joe Firmage, the billionaire currently investing in the "UFO TRUTH" among other paranormalities.. his online manifesto totals 600 pages.. Best UFO photos competition.. Richard Hall on how to get to grips scientifically with the UFO enigma this year !.. post Soviet Glasnost and Russian UFO secrets.. the Russian Roswell ? ... implants.. and in the MAY issue has the winning entry for that photo competition.. taken with a cardboard camera !.. in depth article on that hotly contested Bigfoot photo.. Americas "disc planes", none of which perform like the "genuine" article !.. The MARCH copy has come to light and keeps up the quality and content with interesting photos of entries to that competition.. see above.. a very professionally produced magazine from 5455 Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066.. subs details etc.

FASTER THAN LIGHT issue 14 is the magazine published by the Hull UFO Society with an excellent layout, printing, etc.. Chris Evers.. who likes to call himself The Big Grey !.. edits the mag.. carries a UFO's over Russia article, NASA's Martian Aeroplane for flying over the Red Planet 'for a few days' it says.. New Claims of Life on Mars.. "balls of fire" over Cleethorpes sighting etc.. pages of 'em !.. More on Matthew Williams Crop Circle deliberations.. Italian UFO flap.. Book Reviews by Malcolm Robinson.. and the A to Z of UFOlogy, from the Internet. etc. etc. Issues bi-monthly, £10.50 for 6, from Faster than Light, Chestnut House, 24 Chesnut Avenue, Queens Road, Hull..... Issue 15 runs in much the same manner as the above... Matthew Williams replies to the previous issue article and puts his case for Crop Circle Hoaxing.. HUFOS sky watch produced a clear night and one murky orange globe ! That Humberside BAe 146 close encounter with a UFO featured. Another sky watch described hilariously (?) Darren Parr ! "New Star Brightens Southern Skies" item and "Stormy Weather on Mars" as well ! See above for subs.

OVNI Journal of the Phenomena Research Association, led by Omar Fowler, secretary Deb Hollism.. a slim but never the less nicely turned out mag. Omar's review says we have a 1999 "flap" continuing ! Really ? Send some down South please. Gigantic UFO over Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, in Feb... Rolls-Royce Engineer spots flying Triangle in March

over Derbyshire.. Another technically employed witness reported an FT over the Fosse Way end of March, too, which hovered and then vanished quickly. More pages of similar sightings bear out Omar's "Flap" ! Nottinghamshire, Lincoln, mainly, on into April. Good article by Omar on the inter dimensional world.. now you see it, now you don't. OVIN reports 31 groups now involved in the Flying Triangle project. £2 plus postage subs to 94 The Circle, Sinfen, Derby, DE24 9H. Bi-monthly.

INUFOR DIGEST, Independent Network of UFO researchers based in New South Wales, Australia.. boasts a tolerant and scientific approach to the UFO enigma and the magazine bears this out. Keith Douglass reports on the Northern Territory sightings for 1988, '98 and '99. The Peter Kittle Motor Company Advertising Edition.. it says !.. features sightings and adverts for its products apparently from its in house magazine, via the Alice Springs News 1999. Interesting photo discovered on film when developed of object over Aritunga, Northern Territory, April '99. Reminiscence of George Adamski by Rosemary Decker bring up memories and answer a few questions. Update by Editor Moira McGhee from 1924 covers the Central Coast and Newcastle and makes gripping reading. All enquiries to INUFOR Digest, Box 783, Kogarah, New South Wales, 2217, Australia.

CUFORG SKYWATCHERS issue 24 for Spring 1999 stands for the Cornwall UFO Research Group which certainly contains a variety of subject within it's black and white nicely printed format.. ranging from The Medicine Man and the Oli Mogul !.. a good collection of world-wide sightings.. Roy Dutton's always interesting "predictions" of UFO activity, 'world-wide this year' .. Joseph Firmage's "The Truth" peruses the ET enigma under the International Space Science Organisation.. heavily laden with Biblical quotes. The Latter Day Saints etc. etc. Joseph is obviously sincere and has given up a top job to put over his message. Other than that, I have no comment !... "A World Under Assault" part 2 by Donald Warley, with its alleged abduction of people, aircraft etc itemised but all but three hitherto unknown to yours truly. Enquiries please ! Whitley Strieber on "Where We Stand" berates NASA for lying about "unknown discoveries" to the public while putting the military and intelligence community first ! 'A process of propaganda and lying that is completely unprecedented in this society' to use his

own words. Less secrecy, he pleads.. fat chance I say ! Loved the last page of Skywatchers.. 'Diary Dates !' It's OK.. they really meet at a Truro School ! Well worth the £12 subs yearly for quarterly issues from 24 Carrine Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3XB.

DOWN TO EARTH MAGAZINE says the eye catching cover of this next mag.. if you look VERY carefully through it's FIFTY-NINE PAGES you will see that it is the product of ELUFON.. previous issues of SUFOG mag will probably translate that, my memory doesn't ! Very good articles within and well printed.. one of Roswell which is "different" .. Part 3 of that Sheffield Incident 1997.. Beamships ?.. Latest sighting news.. book reviews.. Israeli crop Circles.. Prof. Stephen Hawking 'doubts alien visitations', 'Carnoustie (Scotland) red disc moving about the sky', lost golf ball ? Interesting photos from Ontario. UFO 'Hundreds of miles in diameter' filmed by satellite 'some years ago', says Chilean TV station. Don't miss that "Flying Peanut" article ! subs are £2.00 per issue, or £15 for a package of six a year with added items, from Roy Hale, Sparrow Green Bull Lane, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7EU.

RAPPORT is the bi-monthly issue of the Witness Support Group which I belong and subscribe to.. by witnesses and for witnesses.. it's sub title "Enlightenment" attracts ! Elsie Oakenson's new book "Into the Unknown" sounds good.. subscribers relate their own experiences.. Michael Joyce loses ME with his Pythagoreathon mathematics but I believe him ! Louisa Howlett's Psychic Corner. How to give up smoking, courtesy of "them" .. article on an encounter ! London based Rapport now in it's fifth year and founded originally in 1990. Subs.. no sceptics please, only genuine experiencers !.. from James Millem, 84 Dyers Lane, Putney, London, SW15 6JU.. suggested donation £1.50 per issue.

ENIGMA.. a pocket sized publication from Paul Vigay and loses nothing in size and contents. Editorial on Government disinformation etcon the beef crisis and now GM foods and Monsanto's role, plus 1999's crop circles.. 'a landmark year for human consciousness' says Paul.. Gawd, I hope so !

Good article "Eating Our Words", on the crop circle enigma.. On how our views change from different experiences.. illustrated formations up to June 1999.. Czech formations allied to UFO sightings too ! .. Reflexology article by Cathy Smiles shows Paul Vigay's wide yet connected interests... Kosovo, The Real Truth, too !... The Bilderberg Group... see previous issues.. met in Portugal June 3rd to 6th. as usual, heavy security and secrecy on the subjects covered, so far ! Internet info. says Peter Mandleson was there with MP Kenneth Clarke as well as Gen. John de Chastelain, Independent International Commission on Decommissioning.. wringing his hands at the Irish hoo ha subsequently, no doubt ! Pine Gap, Australia's Area 51 (?), cover-up of 1992 UFO incident finally exposed. Very interesting article by Matthew Williams on his viewpoint of that famous Countryfile BBC crop circle program. One is left with the not unlikely view that such programs are aimed at the ignorant average viewer and not those of us "involved" ! AH WELL ! Enigma... 'spiritual living in a 3D world' costs £8 for four issues per year from 104 Manners Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO4 0BG.

APRA is another pocket handy gem.. standing for Anomalous Phenomena Research Agency.. February, crop circles, fireballs, meteors, triangles etc, and interesting, different, "encounters" by a 50 year old engineer "CK". Plus "Earth Energies".. with that Avebury skywatch nearly here, I'm quite excited ! Abingdon and East Hagbourne meetings dates. For May 1999, a 19 pager, includes "FT's" or "STEALTH?".. illustrated.. Book Reviews.. Sightings.. Thames Valley and elsewhere.. Invisible UFO's on camera.. More "CK" recollections.. and some from "VF", still ongoing, it seems. Apparently a "swop" or even totally unemcubered magazine, APRA is available c/o PO Box 135, Didcot, OX11 9YA and on Website <http://www2.prestel.co.uk.apranet>

PHENOMENA.. front green cover sports figure from the church at Sainte Madelaine in Rennes-le-Chateau.. hope some of you are versed in the dreadful history of that place ! mag produced by and for Strange Phenomena Scotland and covers some spooky goings on a la poltergeist like effects... another ditto at a

barbers shop.. Millennium Mania and out of context dates for same ! .. Talking to the aliens, in spiritual dimensions.. The Second Sauniere Conference, where or when didn't say, had speakers on various esoteric subjects, Excalibur, that Renness Valley again, The Holy Grail, all stuff I have fortunately studied in depth years ago.. connections with UFO's.. new books reviewed.. the odd sighting.. etc. £10 four issues from Brian Allan, 49 Keith Street, Kincardine, Scotland, FK10 2JN.

THE AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN from the Victorian UFO Research Society boasts a smart green cover featuring various "space" objects and the June issue of 32 pages hosts a multitude of items. The VALENTICH disappearance has a Paul Norman article which throws much light on the whole affair, even to the extent of incidents and encounters repeating in the same area to this day. Sightings from reliable witnesses.. that Papua New Guinea 1959.. I actually drove up North of Winchester to interview the Rev Crutwell who wrote up the incident by fellow Rev GILL.. would have been in the early sixties after I'd had my own first sighting. Book Review of the Cash-Landrum Incident, author John F. Schuessler.. still an obscene lie by the US Government who denied EVERYTHING. Betty Cash recently died, allegedly, and believably, from the injuries caused during the incident.. Schuessler says 'the case is not closed yet' Gordon Creighton, Flying Saucer Review Editor, needs no introduction and his article and the Vatican's is, not usually, provocative ! But proves how the Vatican is quite aware that UFO's exist and need to be assimilated into religion. Although Gordon is still on that "demonic" aspect ! 'Course, he may be right, looking around the world with open eyes... I well remember that opposition election poster of Tony Blair portrayed as old Nick ! My God.. no pun intended.. makes you WONDER now as he sneaks away our freedoms ! Plenty more stuff in the "down under" magazine.. sub rates fifteen Australian dollars or equivalent for mag only.. although try as I might I can find no publishing dates but presume monthly as this is the June 1999 one !.. other rates upon enquiry to The Victorian UFO Research Society, Box 1043, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189, Australia..

Cont.. From page 8

In the late 1960s he became a consultant to **SPACELINK** magazine and spoke at its major symposium in Kensington Library on "defining UFOlogy." He said "a more rigorous definition could restrict the term UFO to unidentified flying objects whose observed characteristics contain at least one feature which is incompatible with any known conventional object or natural phenomenon." "UFOlogy was the systematic comparison of 'observer data' using relevant (named) scientific disciplines."

The **ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS**, September 1979, ran a features, "The UFO Watchers" by Des Wilson. Names and photographs included, Ruth Rees, Lord Clancarty, Lionel Beer, Norman Oliver, Graham Knewstub, Charles Bowen and Bernard Delair. Graham, then 70, reported having seen a cigar-shaped object drifting over Avonmouth in 1960. Being in the aircraft industry, he said it was unlike any aircraft that the world had produced. The same year, while driving in rain near Bristol, he saw an object in the sky surrounded by red, green and amber lights, which were rotating around the vehicle.

At the 30th Anniversary Conference of **BUFORA** held in London on 19 September 1992, Graham was given a framed citation noting his long-service to UFO research. His daughter Robina, who kept an eye on him after his wife died, recalled the pleasure this total surprise gave him, saying, it was a memory of great happiness. Graham was one of the opening speakers at **UFO CASEBOOK**, an international conference held at the University of Bristol on 24 JULY 1993.

My personal memory of him is that of a good friend, a scientist and a gentleman who wore a traditional three-piece suit when he went out. He leaves three daughters and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Lionel Beer - June 1999.

FOOTNOTE :

The Flying Saucer Club of Hove was founded in 1952 by Richard Hughes. The Bristol and Hove Clubs amalgamated in 1954,

UFO99

(LAPIS International Conference).

Speakers :

Michael Lindemann - MJ12.

Nick Redfern - FBI UFO Files.

George Wingfield - Black Triangles.

Jose escamilla - Rodes.

Lionel Fanthorpe - Unsolved Aerial Mysteries.

Graham Sheppard - UFOs : A Sideways Look.

Jonathan Downes & Nigel Wright - Rising of the Moon : The Devon Triangle.

Saturday 4th & 5th December 1999.

Lowther Pavillion, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire.

Contact :

LAPIS, 1 Elm Ave, Poulton Le Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7SP.

Tel : Janet 01253 890 601

and their magazine, **FLYING SAUCER NEWS**, edited by Richard was a great success. In 1956, the magazine was incorporated into **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**. The Bureau continues to operate and hold meetings. Contact : Denis Plunkett, Chairman, BFSB, 10 Branksome Drive, Winterbourne, Bristol, BS17 1LY.

(My thanks to Lionel Beer for letting me publish this tribute in our newsletter and it looks as if UFOlogy has lost one of the founder members in this country. A sad loss, and one person that British UFOlogy should be proud of... Steve Gerrard - Editor and founder of the Southampton UFO Group)....

TELEVISION & RADIO REVIEWS :

15th June - 15th August 1999



3rd - 5th July - Ch 5 Sci-Fi Weekend was somewhat a surprise to see a weekend that saw something new to watch :

3rd July : UFO : The Best Evidence Caught on Tape... This was previously shown on SKY 1 on the cable network and as the title says, showed all the golden oldie footage of UFO's, lights in the sky etc etc.. As I had already seen it before, I enjoyed it the second time around and is one of those programs that should be in any UFOlogists video collection. A very interesting item that rates a good 9/10 in my view.

4th July : The Billion Dollar Secret... This for me was the best program shown on terrestrial TV for a very long time. The presenter from Janes Aircraft magazine went in search of the elusive secret aircraft and for UFO's.. He visited all the places that one must visit in America such as AREA 51 and presented a well balanced program for secret aircraft and UFO's. This program rated a 10/10 in my books and is the best program to of appeared on British TV with regards to this very dark and secret area of secret aircraft.

4th July : National Geographical Channel : Explorer : Screened yet again a program that explored the area of the search for extraterrestrial life using SETI and interviewed top scientists involved in the search for ET. This rates as a 6/10 in my book and looked at the subject of the search for ET in a very interesting and scientific way.

5th July (PT 1) & 12th July (PT 2) : Stranger than Fiction : Alien Abductions - Fact or fiction ?.. This was yet another very interesting program that covered the subject

of alien abduction in a very clear and precise manor. It was like a breath of fresh air when I watched this program that rates as a 10/10 and all serious UFOlogists should have in their collection.

19th July : National Geographical Channel : Identified Flying Objects.. This again, was a very interesting program that looked at the strange phenomenon of the Marfa Lights in Texas.. For many years, strange lights have been seen in the area and many believed they were UFO's or Indian spirits.. Researcher Paul Devereux featured a lot in the program and at the end of the day, I feel that the program concluded that the sightings were in fact earth lights, caused by the tectonic plates of the earth moving and rubbing together, throwing lights into the air. A very interesting program, and like the previous programs, rates as a 10/10 in my view..

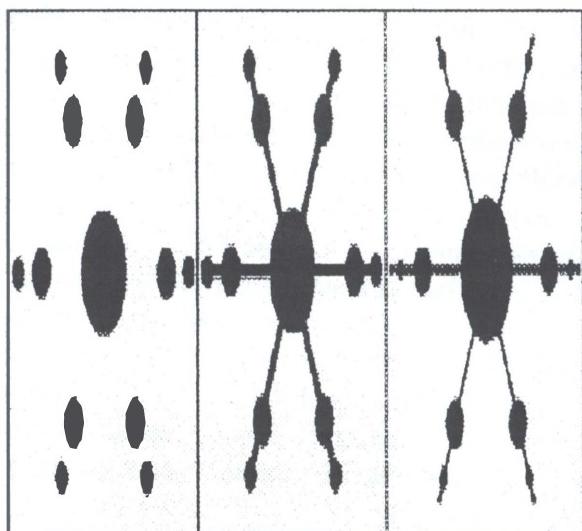
6th August : Sky 1 : Unmasked - Secrets of Deception... I came across this by chance and I am glad I did.... It featured a crop circle that appeared in New Zealand and from the pictures in the local press, looked rather impressive. It turned out that it was a hoax created by 3 London Crop Circle Hoaxers who went to New Zealand to create the hoax. They were filmed creating their 'master piece' by using a time lapse camera, which showed how they created the formation. The program started with 3 figures walking through the mist, in black clothing, ski masks and boards strapped to their backs. Then the presenter said 'The truth can be finally unmasked'... and these three hoaxers removed their masks for the world to see (I would of left the masks on myself.. !!!). It appears that the TV program even paid the farmer for the use of the field to create this hoax. The Press and TV are a bunch of total cretins in that they perpetrate these hoaxes, and then, make money by selling the TV programs to other TV companies around the world. How can serious researchers cope with things like this when the hoaxers are paid to create their hoaxes, maybe not directly i.e. cash in hand, but having flights, accommodation, car hire etc being paid by the TV and press and they say they are not getting anything from it. Certain researchers who make money out of this subject are only in it for that reason.. MONEY.... How many do sky watches.. MONEY talks.. people are making money at others expense... I wore the T-Shirt, read the book, bought the mug, pen, photograph, video ...

The Mysterious Giant Forest Rings in Canada.

An article dated March 16, 1999 in the National Post newspaper of Canada reported the discovery, by aerial photography, of more than 2,000 giant "forest rings" distributed mainly across northern Ontario and Quebec. From the air, the rings are easily visible -- huge, perfect circles of discoloured vegetation, ranging in size from 300 meters to over two kilometres across -- "reminiscent of the bizarre crop circles that have confounded people for years", the Post said.

Also like crop circles, the forest rings have attracted a wide range of scientific and not-so-scientific explanations, ranging from extraterrestrial markings to meteor impact sites to some kind of biological infestation, perhaps a fungus, that moves concentrically outward from a centre point.

Recent discoveries have tended to rule out the fungal infection theory, according to the Post. For the



theory to be true, trees at the centre of the circles should have had more time to recover and regenerate than those at the perimeter, and should appear older and healthier -- but this is not the case. Whatever causes the circles seems to affect the entire area of the circle at once.

Researchers have also noted that the area of the circles is depressed up to two meters below the level of the surrounding unaffected ground. In most cases, these depressions are filled with a thick mat of peat, which has poor drainage and allows only a few kind of trees, such as tamarack, to grow. This discovery has led to a new theory that the rings result from underlying geographical structures which not only create tube-like depressions but also may have unusual electrical properties, like giant natural batteries, that affect plant growth. Because the

huge circles remind some people of kimberlite tubes that often contain rich diamond deposits, prospectors have started moving into the area to stake claims.

The forest rings first came to the attention of scientists in the 1960s. But to this day, it remains unclear how long the rings have been there, how they formed and why there are so many. If answers to these questions are found, they may shed light on the similar mystery of crop circles.

In the next issue we look at :

Southampton Evening Echo 31.7.99 : Crop Circles.. One man's quest to find the truth...

Daily Mail 7.8.99 : The night those UFO's didn't land...

Southampton Evening Echo : Crop Circles not unique in nature (Letter)

Daily Mail 16.8.99 : Farmer's secret (Letter)..

Daily Mail 18.8.99 : The secret agents 'who feared UFO cover-up'...

(CSICOP's response to TNT's KGB UFO Files - held over from the previous issue)

AND MUCH MUCH MORE....

A REVIEW OF "THE DAY AFTER ROSWELL" .. By Col. Philip J Corso (Ret.)**ISBN 0-671-00461-1..****Price c.£16.99 HBK. (review by group member D.J. Probert).**

I was talking to an acquaintance of mine, who happens to be a very accomplished R&D scientist, about some of the strange aspects of crop circles, UFOs etc, and was quite surprised to hear him admit that not only he, but many other scientists, secretly believe that there really are other civilisations 'out there', some of whom are interacting with us. When I expressed my surprise, he said quietly, "Read 'The Day After Roswell', there is a lot of truth revealed in that book." Well, as you know, synchronicity rules, and so a couple of days later a friend had offered to loan me the very same book.

If you are interested in UFOs, you will be aware of the Roswell incident, where it is alleged that an alien spacecraft crashed in the desert of New Mexico during a thunderstorm, in 1947, and was later recovered by the U.S. Army Air Force. This has of course been denied over the years by the authorities, leading to accusations of a great cover-up from those who believe the stories.

As I read the first few chapters of this revealing book, I thought "Yes, this is telling it as it really happened," as Corso relates the official factual account, mixed with his own personal experiences in the US Army. He states that he was not involved at the time with the actual recovery, but by chance, as a young officer in 1947, stumbled across a mind-blowing piece of evidence in a building at Fort Riley, which was part of a consignment on its way to Wright Field AFB in Ohio, presumably for evaluation. What he saw was an alien body, in a fluid filled container, in a crate. This experience stayed with him all his life, but it was not until he became part of the highly secret Research & Development of Foreign Technology department in the Pentagon in 1961, that he became aware of the implications of what he had really seen. This department was ostensibly to research the developments made by other nations, both friend and foe, to help production of weapons technology for the U.S. military machine. Instead however, he was presented with a cabinet full of Alien artefacts when he started this new assignment, and told to evaluate ways of incorporating the Alien technology into the human world. He goes on to describe the ways in which this actually happened, with certain companies being given the alien technologies freely, but on a 'no

questions asked' basis. Many of these inventions we now have and use in modern society, Lasers being just one of the examples.

Corso, sadly deceased shortly after publication of his book, tells his story in the first person, in a personal way. It is his own story, and of the things that were revealed to him in the covert occupation in which he found himself during the early sixties. One of the revelations I found most shocking was the behaviour of the CIA, and now half of the CIA was made up of KGB personnel, and half of the KGB were CIA ! What also emerges is the worrying idea that a lot of the weapons development over the last fifty years has been not to defend against the communist hordes, as we were told, but against the threat of Alien invasion which was felt to be a genuine possibility after the discoveries made from the recovered Alien craft. Hence the development of SDI and Particle Beam Weapons. What I found worrying was not so much the threat of Alien invasion, (after all, they have had 50 years to do it if they wanted), but the degree of paranoia present in the American Military mind, according to Corso's account.

As I read on, I became less certain of whether these were factual reports of events of the time, or a story embellished by myths that the UFO devotees want to hear, because they all seem to be included. However during a further conversation with my scientific friend, he assured me that the book is a factual account ! I then found myself wondering why such secret, world shattering information has been allowed to be freely published, but then, Corso does reveal that the decision was made back in the fifties to bring the public awareness around to acceptance of aliens, gradually, by releasing genuine information mixed with disinformation and encouraging the making of 'fictional' films and books over the years (See what I mean about including the favourite myths?) What I will say is that if you have ever wondered about UFOs, you must read this book, and decide for yourself !

By D.J.Probert

HUBBLE COMPLETES EIGHT YEAR EFFORT TO MEASURE EXPANDING UNIVERSE.

The Hubble Space Telescope Key Project Team today announced that it has completed efforts to measure precise distances to far-flung galaxies, an essential ingredient need to determine the age, size and fate of the universe.

"Before Hubble, astronomers could not decide if the universe was 10 billion or 20 billion years old", said team leader Wendy Freedman of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. "The size scale of the universe had a range so vast that it didn't allow astronomers to confront with any certainty many of the most basic questions about the origin and eventual fate of the cosmos. After all these years, we are finally entering an era of precision cosmology. Now we can reliably address the broader picture of the universe's origin, evolution and destiny".

The team's precise measurements are the key to learning about the universe's rate of expansion, called Hubble's constant. Measuring Hubble's constant was one of the three major goals for NASA's Hubble Space Telescope when it was launched in 1990. For the past 70 years astronomers have sought a precise measurement of Hubble's constant, ever since astronomer Edwin Hubble realised that galaxies were rushing away from each other at a rate proportional to their distance, i.e, the farther away, the faster the recession. For many years, right up until the launch of the Hubble telescope the range of measured values for the expansion rate was some 50 to 100 kilometres per second per megaparsec (a megaparsec, or mpc, is 3.26 million light years).

The team measured Hubble's constant at 70 km/sec/mpc, with an uncertainty of 10 percent. This means that a galaxy appears to be moving 160,000 miles per hour faster for every 3.3 million light years away from Earth.

"The truth is out there, and we will find it," said Dr. Robert Kirshner of Harvard University. "We used to disagree by a factor of two, now we are just as passionate about 10 percent. A factor of two is like being unsure if you have one foot or two. Ten percent is like arguing about one toe. It's a big step forward." Added Robert Kennicutt of the University of Arizona, a co-leader of the team : "Things are beginning to add up. The factor-of-two

controversy is over."

The team used the Hubble telescope to observe 18 galaxies out of 65 million light-years. They discovered almost 800 Cepheid stars, a special class of pulsating star used for accurate distance measurement. Although Cepheids are rare, they provide a very reliable "standard candle" for estimating intergalactic distances. The team used the stars to calibrate many different methods for measuring distances.

"Our results are a legacy from the Hubble telescope that will be used in a variety of future research," said Jeremy Mould of the Australian National University, also a co-leader of the team. "It's exciting to see the different methods of measuring galaxy distances converge, calibrated by the Hubble Space Telescope".

Combining Hubble's constant measurement with estimates for the density of the universe, the team determined that the universe is approx. 12 billion years old - similar to the oldest stars. This discovery clears up a nagging paradox that arose from previous age estimates. The researchers emphasise that the age estimate holds true if the universe is below the so-called 'critical density' where it is delicately balanced between expanding forever or collapsing. Alternatively, the universe is pervaded by a mysterious 'dark force' pushing the galaxies farther apart, in which case the Hubble measurements point to an even older universe.

The universe's age is calculated using the expansion rate from precise distance measurements, and the calculated age is refined based on whether the universe appears to be accelerating or decelerating, given the amount of matter observed in space. A rapid expansion rate indicates the universe did not require as much time to reach its present size, and so it is younger than if it were expanding more slowly. The Hubble Space Telescope Key Project Team is an international group of 27 astronomers from 13 different U.S. and international institutions. The Space Telescope Science Institute is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. for NASA, under contract with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center..

SUFOG SPENDS A WEEKEND AT AVEBURY

31 JULY - 1 AUGUST 1999..

What follows are personal views and notes concerning this 'Phenomenal' weekend :

ERNIE SEARS.. (This article was sent to the Southampton Evening Echo)...

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Feature Writer of the Year Rachel Lamb for her splendid "Going Round In Circles" article in the Echo "BIG feature" of Saturday July 31st.. a really accurate in depth 2 pager on those often misconstrued and still enigmatic "crop circles" that literally festoon the landscape of both Hampshire and Wiltshire every summer.

The article caught my eye on my mid-day return on Sunday from a night long 24 hour "Skywatch", perched with colleagues from the Southampton UFO Group and others from the Oxford based APRA (Anomalous Phenomena Research Agency), on top of the ramparts surrounding Avebury Stone circle. The event.. my first "skywatch" since the heady days of Warminster etc and at my age of 75 approached cautiously but with more than a tinge of enthusiasm ! That I survived.. from 5.00 p.m. on Saturday to 1.00 p.m. on Sunday.. was no doubt due to the good organisation.. barbecued food etc, and the not surprising depths of humour from seven pretty mature blokes when it passed the midnight hour ! (we were all sober, by the way, proximity to the Red Lion PH notwithstanding !) video and still cameras going much of the time. My own almost incredible past incidents with those awesome monoliths which I rate even more impressive than Stonehenge was placed second to my UFO experiences, my personal interest in being out at this ungodly hour, miles from my Netley Abbey home.

Rachel Lamb drew attention to the UFO and crop circle links via the interview with circle expert Colin Andrews in her article.. nothing ever "proved" to the possible connections except anecdotal "proof" and several "hoaxed" incidents.. or were they ?

Three a.m. came and went.. the rising of a huge moon and a nearby planet caught most of the eerie, mystical, atmosphere, and I remarked that once the vocal and musical back cloth of those "croppies" and "New Agers" ensconced in various spots had succumbed to the effects of the sweet cider on draught in the Red Lion PH 'things would happen'.

I'd already taken Bill Smith and Andy Phillips on a 2.00 a.m. tour of all the nearest circle of monoliths.. which left them on cloud nine, I think, with the "energies" they experienced by their laying on of hands ! A huge flash caught my eye and I whipped around to where the dark Eastern sky was filled with a white light that vanished as soon as I saw it. I had shouted.. one would ! .. and the other six guys missed it ! They got a second chance a short while later as TWO white flashes lit up the sky to the West in succession. I remarked.. not exactly jokingly !.. that "they" were about ! The theory being that a UFO had entered the earth's magnetic "envelope" !

They were "about" ! At 3.55 a.m. Bill shouted and I turned to see a huge and brilliant light moving between two clouds.. in the seconds available I noted sparkling lights around a circular looking object that also emitted light, as it moved, silently, in a sudden curve towards us, almost overhead it went into a small cloud and we waited.. and waited.. and waited. groans from those who had missed it by split seconds (this includes our editor Steve... !!!) and frustrated cries from the two of us who wanted a really good look at it ! No use. As if to say 'Hello.. and goodbye' it had gone. We prayed for it to return but it never did.

But it made our day.. or night ! As a massive red sun rose above the hills and we waited just in case a circle had formed in the mist covered cornfield below us.. it hadn't !.. we began to pack our gear and say our farewells to our Oxfordshire friends. We spent the rest of a hot morning tracing other crop formations between Avebury and Alton Barnes.. a total of 13 seen and 6 of those investigated over the

weekend... and made for home. Not without encountering a pub landlord who advertised 'open all day and every day' and further : 'breakfast 8.30 to 10.00 am' plus lunches and dinner but when we arrived thirsty and hungry an underling came out after we'd enquired and said the landlord wasn't doing breakfasts that day !

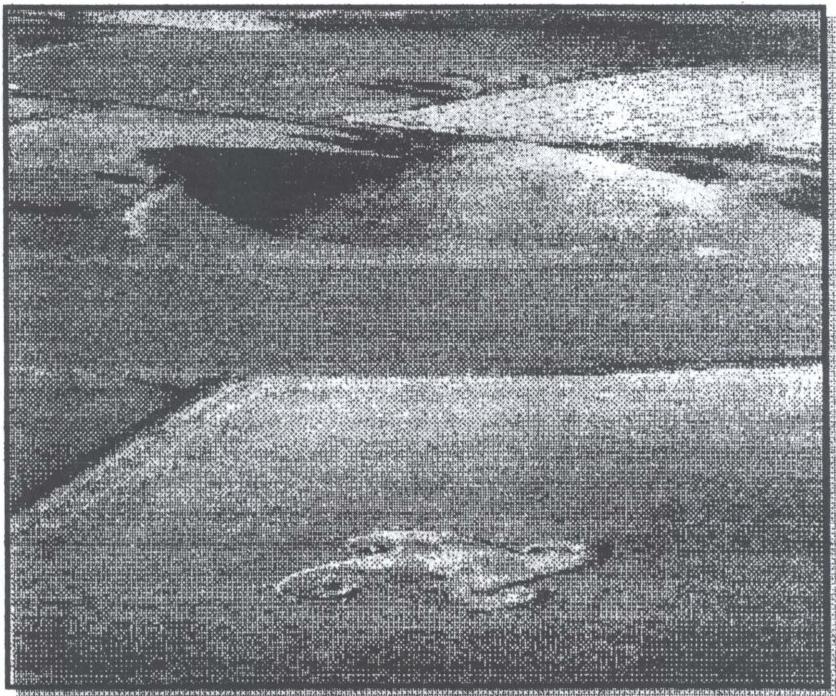
Maybe that huge and suspiciously close formation in full view of that Avebury hostelry.. and the vast crowd in there the evening before ! had changed his mind. Did he NEED us ? That menu blackboard was photographed by the way !

However, the weekend proved that those I have "encountered"... craft and their, "occupants"... are still keeping an eye on us as a species and are still able to penetrate our airspace, and still to the Ministry of Defence tune of 'no defence significance' !

I add a PS, prompted by Rachel Lamb's comment in her article about hoaxers 'causing thousands of pounds worth of damage' to farmer's fields ; What lies behind the complete indifference of such damage admitted to, time, place, etc, by Southampton's "Doug and Dave", who have never been prosecuted ? Doug Bowers never speaks about it. Who were his paymasters ?

View 2 : Steve Gerrard - Southampton UFO Group Founder..

Like all things I attempt to organise for the group, there seems to be that small core of people dedicated to the group that attend events. So it was, that on the Saturday afternoon, those present, myself, Ernie Sears, Steve Rider, Bill Smith and Andy Philips, drove off in our hired Ford Galaxy wondering what awaited us in Wiltshire, and boy, were we in for a weekend. We arrived at Silbury Hill at around 6.30 p.m., parked up, and went circle hunting. Myself and Ernie decided that Silbury was for the younger and fitter ones, so we walked along the road towards West Kennett and we could just make out from the main road, a small, round formation in the fields. Meanwhile, the others, having climbed Silbury, saw 5 formations from its summit. They then decided to visit the formation opposite Silbury on the other side of the main road. They came back a little while latter, corn in their hands and empty pockets. They claimed they had no money to put in the honesty box the farmer had put in the field.. Do I believe them..!! We arrived at Avebury at around 7.30 p.m. parked in the car park of the Red Lion PH and mingled with the new agers, hippies and other strange and wonderful people. Then we saw it... It was big, enormous, huge... No, I am not talking about one of our group members... A formation opposite the Pub, clearly visible from the stones.. (This was in fact a hoaxed formation unknown to us at the time...).. At around 8.30 p.m. we were joined by Brian James of APRA and fellow group member. Bill Smith came into the pub saying that he had found another formation down The Avenue at Avebury, formation number 7... We started our joint skywatch at around 9.30 - 10 p.m. and picked a spot overlooking a field that had previous had a spider web formation appear in it in the early 90's. After we had set up camp, we started... Suddenly... what was that strange light in the field.. investigation time... a security light from a nearby house... What followed, was a quiet, cloudy night, with local tom tom drums and a few fireworks... Then it happened... At



around 3.10 a.m. I saw a flash of light coming from the centre of the Avebury Stones, then suddenly, two more much brighter flashes followed, like magnesium but, we could see the centre of the stones, but there was no one there.. Earth Lights..... At this point, Ernie said that this was the preview to something more heavenly. Then at around 3.50 a.m. everyone shouted 'look at that'... Guess who was looking in the opposite direction... yep... ME !!!!!! the lads saw an object, that made what appeared to make a 90 degree turn into a cloud... The funny thing was, it did not come out from the other side... (See drawing by Ernie Sears)... Well, you can imagine how I felt and Ernie's earlier prediction was right.... Nothing else happened that night, and as we watched the early morning sun rise, 2 foreign chaps approached and asked us if we had seen the 3 flashes of light... confirmation...

So it was, on the Sunday morning at around 7 a.m myself and Steve Rider entered the Avebury formation and we were both unhappy with it at the time and it certainly was in a mess after Joe public had stomped through the formation. We climbed in the vehicle and headed off to the formation in The Avenue and then we drove round to Beckhampton and investigated another formation.. We returned to the Red Lion PH at Avebury for breakfast (as advertised on the boards outside). We approached a chap outside watering the flowers, who went inside and asked the governor about the breakfast.. 'Sorry, no way is the landlord doing breakfasts for you this morning'... Great !!! no breakfast and a landlord who ought to be reported for his advertising.. So, after having the wind knocked out of our sails, no breakfast, we headed home at around 11 a.m... Finding a convenience store open on the way home, we tucked into sandwiches, rolls etc... As usual, the group lost money on a venture... With the Ford Galaxy costing us £68 for the weekend and £30 petrol - total £98.... We all paid our £10 = £50.. We were £48 short... So, we took this from group funds as we were not going to cough up the rest as no one in the group (who wanted a trip to Avebury) bothered to go on the trip... So, although the group funds suffered, we had a great weekend and we all came back rather enlightened, although one member of the group ended up sleeping through the early morning events as he was taken a bit poorly, but he struggled on the next day...

Unusual Triangle UFO Reported in Pennsylvania.

On April 21, 1999 at 9:15 p.m. local time, in West Mifflin, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, occupants of a car reportedly observed an unusual UFO. They live near the flight path of an airport and are familiar with various types of aircraft at night. In this instance, they described an object that looked "like an 1/8 slice of pizza, flying with the crust end forward. This front section was reportedly covered with numerous white non-blinking lights". The witnesses say the nearly triangular object was silhouetted against the sky.

At the same time, the witnesses said, an aircraft believed to be a commercial airliner was seen moving towards Pittsburgh. The unusual UFO was observed to be above the airliner and appeared to stop in the air as the aircraft continued on its course. Then the UFO began to pace the aircraft and quickly caught up to it.

Gordon says one of the witnesses told him that the UFO then emitted a bright beam of light, directed at the aircraft. "This beam white light, which at first was narrow, began to expand, and it reportedly completely illuminated the airplane. Seconds later, the beam of light vanished", Gordon said, quoting the witness.

The witnesses, who had been driving during the observation, then pulled into a driveway and temporarily lost sight of the event as they went into the house to ask another person to come out and observe. When they came back outside, all that could be seen was a bright light moving in the distance.
